



Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at James Rumsey Technical Institute

“To enhance the quality of life through continual education for students of all ages throughout our community by setting standards of excellence in technical and academic education as determined by business, industry, and government.”

That is the mission statement of James Rumsey Technical Institute, which their students exemplified this spring 2017 by planting a mix of 16 shade trees on their campus in Hedgesville on Wednesday, April 12.

This is the second CommuniTree planting with the school, with the first 16 trees having been planted in [fall 2016](#).

Together, these 32 trees will beautify the campus, buffer the school from air

and sound pollution from Route 9 traffic, and provide environmental benefits including reduced stormwater runoff pollution, providing shade, and increasing wildlife habitat.

Additionally, the students received valuable educational lessons and technical training on proper tree planting techniques throughout the project, which will potentially lead to a more educated future workforce of landscape and forestry professionals.

The students that participated in planting the trees were from Environmental Science classes, as well as a Forensics class.

After planting all of the trees,



the students also worked carrying buckets of water to each of the trees to make sure they were thoroughly watered.

Multiple students have expressed their appreciation for being able to participate in the project and how they will remember this project long after they graduate.

These students did an amazing job and are on their way to many future successes!

A word from the Project Leader, Wayne Bennett:

“The event was enjoyable by all students, I would definitely like to work with this organization again in the future. It is very rewarding knowing that our school can be part of cleaning up the environment and also beautifying the campus and Route 9.”



For more information, contact the Urban Watershed Forester at ctree@cacaponinstitute.org or by calling 540-335-0687.